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CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Weekly Bulletin



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FEBRUARY 13, 1926.

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

**Everyone Should Be
Successfully Vaccinated.**

For the first thirty-five days of the present year 443 cases of smallpox with 42 known deaths have been reported to the California State Board of Health. Similar conditions regarding smallpox have existed recently, and exist at the present time, in other states. An extremely virulent type of smallpox has made its appearance in the United States during the past few years and since the autumn of 1924 this disease has exacted a heavy toll in California. This type of the disease is very different from the mild smallpox that has prevailed during the past ten or fifteen years. It is not the kind of smallpox that causes the patient to feel slightly indisposed for a few days, followed by the appearance of a few insignificant looking pustules. The type of the disease now present may be either confluent or hemorrhagic, making the patient desperately ill and frequently killing him. It is the kind of smallpox that so changes the appearance of a child that his own mother can not possibly recognize him as her own.

This statement is not made to inspire fear in anyone. It is a simple and unexaggerated statement of fact. The California State Board of Health, during the past, has made repeated appeals to the general public, urging everyone to be vaccinated successfully. Local health officers have made similar appeals. In spite of these facts, relatively few Californians have been vaccinated successfully during recent years. To be sure,

when an unusually large number of cases have occurred in certain communities, large numbers of individuals have been immunized, but throughout the state as a whole, relatively few vaccinations have been done.

The situation at the present time is such that no individual who has not been vaccinated successfully during recent years can afford to forego the sure protection that a recently performed successful vaccination provides. Health officers and physicians should urge general vaccination in their respective communities. In making this appeal, the California State Board of Health is prompted by its belief that the public should be fully informed in the matter. It is simply giving the facts and is offering its advice for the prevention of this extremely serious and often fatal disease. The board believes that present conditions warrant making this appeal. Furthermore, the California State Board of Health stands ready to be of all possible assistance to any community where assistance is desired.



**Health Officers
Are Newly Appointed.**

Dr. Theodore Snypp of Auburn has been appointed Health Officer of Placer County to succeed Dr. J. L. Fanning.

Mrs. Margaret Lindsay has been appointed Health Officer of the city of Rio Vista to succeed Mr. J. E. Sousa.



The race is not to the swift but to the healthy—Keep fit.—N. Carolina Health Bulletin.

SMALLPOX.

A Radio talk by Jay Frank Schamberg, M.D.,
Philadelphia.

It is the common experience of smallpox hospitals throughout the world that physicians and nurses who are in attendance there may render their humane services without the jeopardy of an attack of smallpox. Indeed, it is much safer for nurses to minister to this disease than to many others against which no such sure protection is available.

Smallpox is an extremely cruel disease. Its onset is characterized by high fever, chills, headache, excruciating backache, general aches and pains, vomiting and prostration. At the end of seventy-two hours these symptoms abate, and just when the patient feels he is about to become well the eruption makes its appearance. The eruption then goes through a progressive course, reaching its height about the eighth or the tenth day, and associated with a pus fever which may reach great height. As many as forty thousand pustules may cover the body, and after the eruption begins to decline the patient is apt to suffer from multiple boils and abscesses. In addition to this, in severe cases there is always a liability of involvement of the eye. Quite a number of patients with severe smallpox lose one of their eyes as a result of the attack, and in rare cases sight in both eyes is destroyed, and after complete convalescence the patient is pitted and marked with the insignia of the terrible disease through which he has passed.

It is rather remarkable that with an easy means of protection against such a foul disease so many people exhibit indifference concerning this protection. If smallpox were as common and as universal as it was in the prevaccination era, a greater fear would be instilled into the minds of the people and there would be more eagerness on their part to avail themselves of the benefits of vaccination. Smallpox is now a relatively uncommon disease in civilized communities, but its extent is proportionate to the amount of susceptible material in the community and to the frequency of introduction of the spark of infection. The United States has the unfortunate distinction of ranking third among fifty countries of the world in the extent of smallpox prevalence. According to some recent figures that have been published, California is said to have a smallpox rate fourteen times greater than that of Japan.

It is within the power of this com-

munity, as it is of every community, to stamp out smallpox absolutely. If everyone in the world today were to be vaccinated with an active vaccine virus, smallpox would disappear from the face of the earth. People are always brave in the face of an absent danger. Many neglect vaccination when there is no smallpox in the community, but when this appears in epidemic form they rush to be vaccinated.

There is no medical doctrine that has been more definitely and conclusively proven than the protective influence of vaccination against smallpox. This is demonstrated not only by massive statistics, but by the almost universal opinion of men who have had a large experience with this disease. It is rather astonishing that intelligent people are influenced by the arguments of opponents of vaccination who are largely made up of laymen. Over ninety-nine per cent of the great authorities on medicine in the various universities of the world are a unit in their opinion as to the protective value of vaccination. A physician would not presume to give an expert opinion on a question of electrical engineering or on a matter of technical law, and it follows that the opinion of an electrical engineer or a lawyer is of as little value on the question of the efficacy of vaccination.

Many of you will ask: "How long will vaccination protect, and how often should one be vaccinated?" This can not be accurately answered with respect to the individual, but satisfactory information can be given with regard to masses. On the average an individual successfully vaccinated will be protected against smallpox for a period of five or ten years, the time varying with different individuals. Even one attack of smallpox will not invariably protect against a second, although in the vast majority of cases it does so. Children should be vaccinated in infancy, and revaccinated at the age of ten or twelve. In the vast majority of cases two such vaccinations will protect for life. If at any time one is exposed to smallpox, it is the part of intelligence and prudence to again be vaccinated in order to make sure that one's immunity is complete. You might ask: "What shall I do if my vaccination does not take?" If you have never had a successful vaccination, then an unsuccessful attempt at vaccination gives absolutely no assurance of protection against smallpox. I have known such persons to take the severest form of this disease when exposed to it. If, however, you have been once or twice successfully vaccinated, later unsuccessful vaccinations may mean that the system has been protected both

against smallpox and against vaccination.

There is no disease against which such ready protection may be purchased as smallpox. It is within the power of every individual to render himself insusceptible to this disease. The risk from a properly performed vaccination is negligible, particularly when proper hygiene and care are given to the inoculated site. One takes an infinitely greater risk of accident or injury in riding in an automobile than in being vaccinated, and the latter gives protection against a foul and loathsome disease, which has in the past exacted tremendous human toll.



American Health Congress In May.

For the first time in the history of public health in America those who are doing the work itself will have a chance to meet together and view it as a whole when the American Health Congress convenes in Atlantic City, May 17-22. This Congress has been the dream of the National Health Council, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, since its formation in 1921 and will reveal the vast strides in coordination of effort and cooperation that the Council has brought about for its member organizations during the last five years.

Included in the membership and on the staffs of these participating organizations are the leading authorities of the country in every phase of public health—tuberculosis and cancer control, prevention of blindness; social and mental hygiene, public health nursing, the control of preventable diseases, the study and care of heart disease, and positive health education for both children and adults. This means that the programs will not only show the accomplishments of public health workers up to the present, but will also forecast the plans for the future. It is possible that a public health program for a decade may result from the meeting of specialists in so many fields.

To address the opening session of the American Health Congress, Sir Arthur Newsholme, who has been highly influential in the development of public health work in England and who also has a close knowledge of the American public health situation, is visiting this country. Professor C. E. A. Winslow, President of the American Public Health Association, will address one of the general sessions of the Congress. "Is Public Health Improving the Race" is the piquant title of the address to be delivered by Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, President of

Stanford University. It is especially fortunate that this American Health Congress will hear of the international phases of health work from Dr. George E. Vincent, President of the Rockefeller Foundation. Many other renowned speakers will complete the well-arranged program.

Meeting at the same time, in Atlantic City, the three national nursing organizations—the American Nurses Association, the National League of Nursing Education, and the National Organization of Public Health Nursing, will hold their biennial convention; the American Child Health Association and the Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America, will gather at this time for their annual meetings. The member organizations taking part are: American Child Health Association; American Heart Association; American Public Health Association; American Red Cross; American Social Hygiene Association; American Society for the Control of Cancer; Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America; National Committee for Mental Hygiene; National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness; National Organization for Public Health Nursing; National Tuberculosis Association; United States Children's Bureau; United States Public Health Service; Women's Foundation for Health. This means that the field of public health is completely covered in the general and special sessions.



Diphtheria Reduced In Prevalence Last Year.

Preliminary reports received from several cities and counties within the state, indicate considerable reductions in morbidity and mortality rates for diphtheria last year. In many of these communities active campaigns for immunization against diphtheria have been carried on. These campaigns have, no doubt, been factors in reducing the rates; it must be remembered however, that the only reliable index of immunization results must cover a period of several years in order to present conclusive evidence. This statement is intended in no way to reflect upon the value of the immunization procedure but it is intended to indicate the necessity for using conservative, logical and accurate conclusions in forming exact deductions regarding the results accomplished by means of immunization.

MORBIDITY.***Diphtheria.**

123 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 7, Fresno County 2, Los Angeles County 10, Alhambra 2, Burbank 1, Glendale 2, Los Angeles 55, Pomona 1, San Fernando 1, Sierra Madre 1, Whittier 1, Hawthorne 3, Mill Valley 1, Orange County 2, Fullerton 1, Huntington Beach 4, Santa Ana 4, San Diego 4, San Francisco 8, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo County 1, Burlingame 1, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 1, Stanislaus County 2.

Measles.

57 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Los Angeles County 2, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 9, Whittier 2, Gustine 4, San Francisco 26, San Luis Obispo 1, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 1, Santa Paula 9.

Scarlet Fever.

164 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 2, Alameda 1, Berkeley 2, Livermore 1, Oakland 7, Chico 1, Gridley 2, Colusa County 2, Fresno County 3, Reedley 1, Selma 1, Kern County 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 22, Alhambra 1, Glendale 3, Huntington Park 2, Long Beach 10, Los Angeles 38, Monrovia 1, Pomona 2, Ocean Park 2, Whittier 1, Signal Hill 1, Maywood 1, Madera County 1, Mill Valley 1, Monterey County 2, Napa County 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 5, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 3, San Diego 6, San Francisco 13, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 8, Los Gatos 1, San Jose 6, Yuba County 1.

*From reports received on February 8th and 9th for the week ending February 6th.

Smallpox.

181 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Alameda 1, Berkeley 3, Oakland 13, Colusa County 2, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 37, Azusa 1, Burbank 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 88, Santa Monica 1, Monterey Park 1, Orange County 3, Orange 1, Sacramento County 7, Sacramento 5, San Diego 1, San Francisco 6, Santa Maria 1, Solano County 1.

Typhoid Fever.

13 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Los Angeles 2, San Fernando 1, Mariposa County 1, Napa County 1, San Francisco 1, Modesto 1, Exeter 5.

Whooping Cough.

48 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 2, Oakland 9, Walnut Creek 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 8, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 3, Pomona 1, Santa Monica 1, Sausalito 3, San Diego County 6, San Diego 1, San Francisco 4, Santa Barbara 2, Tulare County 1.

Poliomyelitis.

2 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: San Diego County 1, San Diego 1.

Epidemic Meningitis.

8 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Amador County 1, Los Angeles 1, Hawthorne 1, Sausalito 1, Lincoln 1, Stockton 1, Patterson 1, Tuolumne 1.

Epidemic Encephalitis.

3 cases of epidemic encephalitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, Stockton 1.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

| Disease | 1926 | | | | 1925 | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|---|-------------|---------|---------|--|
| | Week ending | | | Reports for week ending Feb. 6 received by Feb. 9 | Week ending | | | Reports for week ending Feb. 7 received by Feb. 10 |
| | Jan. 16 | Jan. 23 | Jan. 30 | | Jan. 17 | Jan. 24 | Jan. 31 | |
| Anthrax..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Botulism..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chickenpox..... | 321 | 292 | 304 | 323 | 360 | 283 | 398 | 423 |
| Diphtheria..... | 97 | 124 | 129 | 123 | 145 | 175 | 172 | 140 |
| Dysentery (Bacillary)..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Epidemic Encephalitis..... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Cerebrospinal Meningitis..... | 4 | 8 | 12 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Gonococcus infection..... | 121 | 112 | 65 | 137 | 74 | 163 | 105 | 84 |
| Influenza..... | 683 | 1174 | 894 | 525 | 25 | 56 | 76 | 65 |
| Leprosy..... | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Malaria..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Measles..... | 45 | 67 | 62 | 58 | 51 | 48 | 49 | 37 |
| Mumps..... | 227 | 285 | 212 | 197 | 188 | 160 | 185 | 188 |
| Pneumonia (lobar)..... | 95 | 102 | 97 | 91 | 90 | 94 | 98 | 91 |
| Poliomyelitis..... | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| Scarlet Fever..... | 158 | 188 | 211 | 164 | 174 | 180 | 168 | 142 |
| Smallpox..... | 172 | 102 | 88 | 181 | 198 | 194 | 182 | 166 |
| Syphilis..... | 105 | 100 | 120 | 174 | 111 | 153 | 108 | 137 |
| Tuberculosis..... | 196 | 197 | 121 | 209 | 289 | 171 | 172 | 128 |
| Typhoid Fever..... | 16 | 11 | 7 | 13 | 6 | 12 | 9 | 8 |
| Whooping Cough..... | 126 | 55 | 61 | 51 | 145 | 181 | 155 | 101 |
| Totals..... | 2368 | 2818 | 2389 | 2260 | 1861 | 1877 | 1888 | 1721 |

CALIFORNIA STATE PRINTING OFFICE